

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a network interface to obtain data associated with a volume license agreement (VLA) from a clearinghouse to transact a purchase of a software seat under the VLA in response to a user request to purchase the software;

a database to store the obtained data, the data to include rules associated with the VLA, including rules on discount pricing, and a user profile associated with the requesting user;

a repository to store information regarding a purchase history for the user for the software, including a number of software seats purchased under the VLA;

a processor to access the stored VLA data, determine from the rules on discount pricing of the VLA data a discount step for the user requesting to purchase the software, determine from the stored purchase history information including the number of software seats purchased whether the discount step is current, update the discount step to reflect the determination of whether the discount price is current, and dynamically calculate a current price with the updated discount step, wherein to determine from the stored purchase history information whether the discount step is current includes the processor to determine if the software seat to be purchased will invoke a new discount step according to the rules on discount pricing, and if a new discount step will be invoked, determine what the new discount step will be, compare the new discount step to the discount step, and if the new discount step is different, update the discount step to be the new discount step; and

a user interface driver to receive the calculated current price and provide display information to a user interface to cause the user interface to display the current price.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the repository to store a purchase history comprises the repository to store information regarding the requested purchase to update the purchase history.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a distribution engine to operate in conjunction with the network interface to automatically, remotely install the purchased software seat in response to the user purchase request.

28. (New) A method comprising:

receiving over a network from a clearinghouse, in response to a user request to purchase software, volume license agreement (VLA) information for a VLA associated with the user for purchase of a seat of the software under the VLA, the VLA information to include rules on discount pricing and a user profile associated with the requesting user;

storing the VLA information in a database;

storing a purchase history of purchases of seats of the software by the user, including a number of software seats purchased under the VLA;

determining from the discount pricing rules a currently applicable discount step corresponding to a purchase initiated by the user request to purchase the software;

determining from the stored purchase history a number of seats purchased under the VLA whether the currently applicable discount step is current, and if the currently applicable discount step is not current, determining a new discount step by determining if the software seat to be purchased will provide for enough purchases of software seats to invoke a new discount step according to the rules on discount pricing, and if the purchase will invoke a new discount step, determining what the new discount step will be and comparing the new discount step to the currently applicable discount step in the VLA information;

updating VLA information, if necessary, to reflect the new discount step;
dynamically calculating a current price with the currently applicable discount step if the currently applicable discount step is current, otherwise with the new discount step; and
displaying the current price.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising updating the purchase history to reflect the purchase initiated by the purchase request.

30. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising distributing automatically to a computer device of the user to install the purchase software seat on the computer device in response to the user purchase request.

31. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a machine accessible medium having content to provide instructions to cause a machine to perform operations, including:

receiving over a network from a clearinghouse, in response to a user request to purchase software, volume license agreement (VLA) information for a VLA associated with the user for purchase of a seat of the software under the VLA, the VLA information to include rules on discount pricing and a user profile associated with the requesting user;

storing the VLA information in a database;

storing a purchase history of purchases of seats of the software by the user, including a number of software seats purchased under the VLA;

determining from the discount pricing rules a currently applicable discount step corresponding to a purchase initiated by the user request to purchase the software;

determining from the stored purchase history a number of seats purchased under the VLA whether the currently applicable discount step is current, and if the currently applicable discount step is not current, determining a new discount step by determining if the software seat to be

purchased will provide for enough purchases of software seats to invoke a new discount step according to the rules on discount pricing, and if the purchase will invoke a new discount step, determining what the new discount step will be and comparing the new discount step to the currently applicable discount step in the VLA information;

updating VLA information, if necessary, to reflect the new discount step;

dynamically calculating a current price with the currently applicable discount step if the currently applicable discount step is current, otherwise with the new discount step; and

displaying the current price.

32. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 33, further comprising the content to provide instructions to cause a machine to perform operations including:

updating the purchase history to reflect the purchase initiated by the purchase request.

33. (New) An article of manufacture according to claim 33, further comprising the content to provide instructions to cause a machine to perform operations including:

distributing automatically to a computer device of the user to install the purchase software seat on the computer device in response to the user purchase request.